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Examiner: Loren C. Edwards
Title: EXHAUST ASSEMBLY
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AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This Listing of Claims will replace all prior versions and listing of claims in the application. No new matter has been added.

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently amended) An exhaust assembly for a marine genset, the exhaust assembly comprising:
~~a combustion engine having an exhaust manifold configured to emit cooling water and exhaust gases from a combustion engine; and~~
a sound-dampening device configured to be coupled between the exhaust manifold and a muffler, the sound-dampening device including a tubular member having an inner diameter and two or more rings located on the inner diameter of the tubular member; each ring having an inner surface exposing directly to an exhaust gas passageway in the tubular member, the rings being configured to provide constriction of the passageway which causes mixing of the cooling water with the exhaust ~~[[gas]] gases~~ to reduce noise generated by the combustion engine.
2. (Canceled)
3. (Currently Amended) The exhaust assembly of claim 1, wherein the tubular member ~~includes a~~ is flexible exhaust hose for connecting and is configured to be connected between the exhaust manifold and directly to the muffler, the flexible exhaust hose tubular member having an inner diameter, and the two or more rings are located on the inner diameter of the flexible ~~exhaust hose tubular member~~, each ring having an outer diameter the same as the inner diameter of the flexible ~~exhaust hose tubular member~~ and an inner diameter smaller than the inner diameter of the flexible ~~exhaust hose tubular member~~.
4. (Currently Amended) The exhaust assembly of claim 1, wherein the tubular member ~~includes an exhaust tube having a first end~~ is rigid and is connectable ~~[[to]]~~

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between the exhaust manifold and an exhaust hose connected to the muffler, the ~~[[tube]]~~ rigid tubular member including an inner diameter, the inner diameter having the at least two rings mounted thereto, each ring having an outer diameter the same as the inner diameter of the ~~[[tube]]~~ rigid tubular member and an inner diameter smaller than the inner diameter of the ~~[[tube]]~~ rigid tubular member.

5. (Canceled)

6. (Currently amended) An exhaust apparatus for a marine genset, comprising:
a flexible exhaust ~~hose for connecting~~ tubular member configured to be connected between an exhaust manifold of a combustion engine and a muffler, the flexible exhaust ~~[[hose]]~~ tubular member having an inner diameter; and

two or more rings located on the inner diameter of the flexible exhaust ~~[[hose]]~~ tubular member, each ring having an outer diameter the same as the inner diameter of the flexible exhaust ~~[[hose]]~~ tubular member and an inner surface having an inner diameter smaller than the inner diameter of the flexible exhaust ~~[[hose]]~~ tubular member, each of the inner surfaces of the rings exposing directly to an exhaust gas passageway in the exhaust ~~[[hose]]~~ tubular member, the rings being configured to provide constriction of the passageway which causes mixing of ~~[[the]]~~ cooling water with ~~[[the]]~~ exhaust ~~[[gas]]~~ gases to reduce noise generated by the combustion engine.

7. (Currently Amended) The exhaust apparatus of claim 6, wherein the two or more rings are evenly spaced about 4 1/2 inches apart from each other along a length of the flexible exhaust ~~[[hose]]~~ tubular member.

8. (Currently Amended) The exhaust apparatus of claim 6, wherein the flexible exhaust ~~[[hose]]~~ tubular member has an outer diameter of about 2 inches.

9. (Canceled)

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10. (Currently Amended) The exhaust apparatus of claim 6, wherein the length of the flexible exhaust ~~[[hose]]~~ tubular member is about 6 feet or less.
11. (Currently Amended) An exhaust apparatus for a marine genset, comprising:
a rigid ~~[[tube]]~~ tubular member having a first end connectable to an exhaust outlet of a combustion engine, the ~~[[tube]]~~ tubular member including an inner diameter, the inner diameter having at least two rings mounted thereto, each ring having an outer diameter the same as the inner diameter of the ~~[[tube]]~~ tubular member and an inner diameter smaller than the inner diameter of the ~~[[tube]]~~ tubular member, each ring having an inner surface exposing directly to an exhaust gas passageway in the ~~[[tube]]~~ tubular member, the rings being configured to provide constriction of the passageway which causes mixing of ~~[[the]]~~ cooling water with ~~[[the]]~~ exhaust ~~[[gas]]~~ gases to reduce noise generated by the combustion engine.
12. (Currently Amended) The exhaust apparatus of claim 11, wherein the ~~[[tube]]~~ tubular member is a rigid metal pipe.
13. (Currently Amended) The exhaust apparatus of claim 11, wherein a second end of the ~~[[tube]]~~ tubular member is connectable to a flexible marine exhaust hose.
14. (Currently Amended) The exhaust apparatus of claim 11, wherein the ~~[[tube]]~~ tubular member includes a first ring mounted to the first end of the ~~[[tube]]~~ tubular member and a second ring mounted to a second end of the ~~[[tube]]~~ tubular member, the first ring and the second ring being 4 to 5 inches apart.
15. (Currently Amended) The exhaust apparatus of claim 11, wherein the ~~[[tube]]~~ tubular member and the rings are stainless steel.
16. (Canceled)

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17. (Currently Amended) An exhaust system for a marine genset, the exhaust assembly comprising:

- a combustion engine having an exhaust to emit cooling water and exhaust gases;
- a muffler;
- a water separator;
- an exhaust hose connecting the exhaust and the muffler; and
- an exhaust ~~[[tube]]~~ tubular member between the exhaust and the exhaust hose, the ~~[[tube]]~~ tubular member having an inner diameter and two or more rings located on the inner diameter; each ring having an outer diameter the same as the inner diameter of the ~~[[tube]]~~ tubular member and an inner diameter smaller than the inner diameter of the ~~[[tube]]~~ tubular member, each ring having an inner surface exposing directly to an exhaust gas passageway in the ~~[[tube]]~~ tubular member, the rings being configured to provide constriction of the passageway which causes mixing of the cooling water with the exhaust ~~[[gas]]~~ gases to reduce noise generated by the combustion engine.

18. (Currently Amended) The exhaust system of claim 17, wherein the exhaust ~~[[tube]]~~ tubular member includes a first ring mounted to a first end of the ~~[[tube]]~~ tubular member and a second ring mounted to a second end opposite to the first end of the ~~[[tube]]~~ tubular member, the first ring and the second ring being 4 to 5 inches apart.

19. (Currently Amended) The exhaust assembly of claim 3, wherein the two or more rings are evenly spaced about 4 1/2 inches apart from each other along a length of the ~~flexible exhaust hose~~ flexible tubular member.

20. (Currently Amended) The exhaust assembly of claim 4, wherein the ~~exhaust tube~~ rigid tubular member includes a first ring mounted to the first end of the ~~[[tube]]~~ rigid tubular member and a second ring mounted to a second end of the ~~[[tube]]~~ rigid tubular member, the first ring and the second ring being 4 to 5 inches apart.

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21. (New) The exhaust assembly of claim 1, wherein the two or more rings located on the inner diameter of the tubular member, comprises two rings located at opposite ends of the tubular member.